26 August 1982

The Norwegian Nobel Institute
Drammenseveien 19
Oslo 2
Norway

Dear Sirs,

The award of a Nobel Prize is universally recognised as one of the highest honours a person can attain.

In order that the dignity of this award, and the world-wide respect for it, be maintained, I write to urge you to consider the immediate withdrawal of the Nobel Peace Prize from Menachem Begin.

The events of the past two months in Lebanon have been horrendous, and have far exceeded limits normally accepted in a state of war. Women, children, the sick and the aged, civilians, have been killed in their thousands; hundreds of thousands are homeless. Weapons have been used which could only, in the opinion of military experts, have been intended for maximum destruction. International relief organisations have been turned back from Lebanese ports, unable, because not allowed, to bring the urgent help needed. Water supplies have been cut off, and electricity supplies. Hospitals have been bombed. The innocent have suffered a hell on earth.

The Israeli invasion of Lebanon, instigated and executed on Mr Begin's orders, has been universally condemned by governments, by the majority of world leaders, by the United Nations, by international organisations such as the International Red Cross, by the world's press, and by the man in the street. Mr Begin has defied world public opinion, and the human conscience.

It is a significant fact that many who are normally known as ardent supporters of Israel have joined in the condemnation of her current policy, and that Mr Begin has been frequently referred to in Western newspapers, usually sympathetic to Israel, as inhuman, and that words such as genocide and holocaust, once almost exclusive to Nazi Germany, are now being widely used in association with the Israeli state.

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